



Roan St Patrick's Primary School

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Principal: Mr S Mone, BA Hons, PGCE, PQH

Dear Parents,

Thank you very much for your continued patience and support as we approach the beginning of our new school year. Thankfully the Minister has announced a further relaxation to the social distancing measures required within primary school settings. While this means that we can now go ahead and allow all children to return at the beginning of the term, I would like to reassure you that we will continue to follow all PHA guidance and endeavour to mitigate the risk of the Covid-19 virus within our school through a range of safety measures. We will begin the year with induction days to allow our children to settle back into school and get used to our new regulations.

I have outlined how we will begin the new term, including important dates and regulations.

School return dates – Week Beginning 24th August (packed lunches required for all children):

- Primary 7: Children will return full-time from Monday 24th August.
- Primary 5/6: Children will have their induction day on Wednesday 26th August and return to school full-time on Friday 28th August (off Thurs 27th).
- Primary 4: Children will have their induction day on Wednesday 26th August and return to school full-time on Friday 28th August (off Thurs 27th).
- Primary 2-3: Children will have their induction day on Thursday 27th August and return to school full-time on Friday 28th August. (Normal hours – P2 finish at 2pm – P3 finish at 3pm **but 2pm on a Friday**).
- Primary 1: Children will have their induction day on Thursday 27th August and begin school full-time on Friday 28th August. (Children in Primary 1 will go home at 12.15pm until the end of September – 1.50pm thereafter).

The school will be closed on Monday 31st August with Term 1 officially beginning on Tuesday 1st September. An updated holiday list will be issued soon and pinged out via the school app.

School drop-off arrangements:

Drop-off and pick-up will now take place from our new school car park. Children can be dropped-off between 8.45 – 9.05am (school gates will not be open before 8.45am). Children will enter the school via the new gate which is adjacent to the mobile buildings. They will walk directly to their classroom where they will sanitise their hands on entry. (There will be no outside play at the beginning of the school day).

Primary 1/2 parents may wish to walk their child to their classroom door at the beginning of the term. Parents are not to enter the classrooms at any times due to our child protection and Covid-19 procedures. These parents can then exit the school via the roadside school gate and walk back to the car park (please follow this one-way system).

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School pick-up arrangements:

- Primary 1 children will be walked to the new car park gate for collection at 12.15pm in September - 1.50pm thereafter.
- Primary 2 children will be walked to the new car park gate at 2pm for collection.
- Primary 3 children will be walked to the new car park gate at 2.45pm for collection (2pm on a Friday).
- Primary 4 children will be walked to the new car park gate at 2.50pm for collection.
- Primary 5 and 6 children will be walked to the new car park gate at 2.55pm for collection.
- Primary 7 children will be walked to the new car park gate at 3.00pm for collection.

We ask that those collecting children support the staggered collection arrangements to mitigate risk. Parents can stand at their parked car or along the fence below the mobiles where staff can identify you and release your child. We ask that you all adhere to social distancing guidance and refrain from bunching at the school gate. We ask that you drive very carefully to and from the school at all times. Children walking home will exit the school via the roadside gate and a member of staff will walk them safely across the road. All parents who wish their child to walk home must give written permission. Please ensure that any other trusted adult that is collecting your child is aware of the drop-off / pick-up guidelines.

Children who are unwell or become unwell in school

It is of paramount importance that if your child has been unwell the night before or in the morning that they remain at home especially if they are showing Covid-19 symptoms. Please do not send a child who is unwell in any way to school. We ask that parents take their child/children's temperature in the morning before leaving for school.

If a child presents unwell during the school day we will contact parents immediately and arrangements must be made to take the child home. Please bear this in mind and have arrangements in place for child's collection in this situation.

Everyone has their part to play in keeping each other safe and further communication will be provided about the steps to take where a child or adult has symptoms, or has been in contact with someone who has symptoms, consistent with Coronavirus. This will be based on the most up to date guidance available at the time.

Social Distancing:

Whilst social distancing guidelines within the primary school setting have been relaxed, we will strive to keep them in place as much as possible. Classes will be 'bubbled' and we will keep interaction between classes to a minimum. This will mean staggered break and lunch times and a cessation of all clubs until further notice.

Visitors:

Under current guidance, visitors/parents will not be permitted in the school buildings without an appointment. If you would like to speak to your teacher about your child's progress, we can arrange a socially distanced meeting or a meeting over the phone. For any smaller queries or questions, please email your teacher and they will respond to you as soon as possible.

Hygiene Measures:

All children/staff will be required to wash their hands/use hand sanitisers on entering the school and regularly throughout the day. Good personal hygiene practices will be actively encouraged. Extra cleaning and sanitising will be prioritised, and we will have stringent hygiene measures and reactive strategies in place following guidance from EA and the PHA.

School Meals / Snack:

School meals will be available to all children as normal from Tuesday 1st September (packed lunches required week beginning 24th August). Meals will be served to classroom 'bubbles' and there may be a reduced menu (more details to follow). Packed lunches should be in disposable packaging (please clearly label lunches for the younger children). We will no longer be providing our healthy snack service. Children should take a healthy snack into school every day. (It is very important that all children get their full breakfast and have a snack with them daily).

School Bags/Pencil Cases

School bags will not be needed initially. Children can take in their labelled pencil case with essential items (see listed items attached). Pencil cases will remain in school.

Clubs:

Breakfast Club will not be available at the beginning of the term. We hope to be able to commence the club in the coming weeks with strict social distancing. There will be no after-school clubs in Term 1.

School uniform:

Full uniform will be worn as normal. We ask that you try to keep uniforms as clean as possible. You will be informed of your child's PE days at the beginning of the term. Children can wear their PE gear into school on those days to help with the practicality of this.

Transfer Revision

Transfer Revision will take place from 8am – 8.45am Monday – Friday for all Primary 7 children sitting the test in December. This will begin on Friday 28th August when the first set of papers will be handed out.

It is important to remember that the situation regarding schools remains fluid. Changes can happen very quickly so it is important that you are prepared for possible short and/or long term closures over the coming months. We are currently developing our online provision in terms of home learning in the event of further closures (more details to follow). A number of families are due refunds for payments made before lockdown – we will be in contact with you about this and we are currently developing a new online payment option for the future.

I will send out further important information over the coming days and our usual beginning of the year letter will be sent out on Tuesday 1st September.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns about your child returning to school please contact me at the school at any time (02837548355 – smone720@c2kni.net).

Yours sincerely,

S Mone

Principal

Pencil Case items:

2 HB Pencils (we will provide thick pencils for younger children) – Rubber – Sharpener – Colouring Pencils / Crayons (twistables are great for younger children and require less sharpening) – Glue Stick – Ruler – Whiteboard Pens – Highlighter – Blue / Black / Red Ballpoint Pens (P7 only) – Individual Hand Sanitiser / Tissues.